

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 19 were pending. Claims 8 and 19 have been canceled. Claims 7, 9 and 18 have been amended. Accordingly, claims 1-7 and 9-18 remain pending in the present application.

In the present Office Action, claims 1-6 and 13-17 are allowed. Claims 8-12 and 19 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant has amended each of claims 7 and 18 to incorporate the features of prior claims 8 and 19, respectively. Accordingly, each of independent claims 7 and 18 are in condition for allowance. In addition, each of dependent claims 9-12 are likewise in condition for allowance.

Applicant submits the application is now in condition for allowance. Should the examiner wish to discuss this further, the below signed representative would appreciate a phone call at (512) 853-8866 in order to facilitate a resolution.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully submits the application is now in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

No fees are believed necessary; however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 50-1505\5181-53800\RDR.

Respectfully submitted,

Rory D. Rankin
Reg. No. 47,884
ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANT

Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin,
Kowert & Goetzel, P.C.
P.O. Box 398
Austin, Texas 78767-0398
Phone: (512) 853-8800

Date: 2/25/05